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taking founded upon modern social science." He disclaims any desire to whitewash the situation, and says he is in no wise influenced by the courtesies shown him by the Belgians. His refutation of the British charges is so violent that, considering the sources of his information, the argument is not convincing. The volume deserves attention, for many valuable facts are presented.

Wallace, Dillon. *The Lure of the Labrador Wild.* Pp. 339. Illustrations and maps. Price, \$1.50 net. Chicago: F. H. Revell Company, 1905.

This fascinating journal of the expedition into the unknown regions of Labrador, conducted by the lamented Leonidas Hubbard, Jr., who lost his life on the trip, has already passed into its second edition. The story is simple and pathetic, yet withal appeals to some of the deepest instincts of man. It is one of the most interesting accounts of exploration we have seen, and will be enjoyed by all who read it.

REVIEWS

Avery, Elroy McKendree. *A History of the United States and its People from Their Earliest Records to the Present Time.* Vol. I. Pp. xxii and appendix, 405. Price, \$6.25. Cleveland: Burrows Brothers Company, 1904.

This is the first volume of a history of the United States, to appear in twelve volumes. The period covered by the present volume is the "Period of Discovery."

"Twenty years ago," the prospectus says of the publishers, "they recognized the urgent need for a really excellent popular history of the United States, one that should be: first, trustworthy, without being a mere mass of documents; second, complete or extended enough to be more than a mere skeleton, devoid of all flesh and blood of personal interest; third, so lucidly written that its clearness of expression should make it as interesting as a novel; fourth, liberally mapped; fifth, instructively illustrated, beautifully printed and sumptuous. Dr. Avery has devoted years of study to supplementing clearness of telling with correctness of statement and a true philosophic historical perspective."

So much for origin. As to method: "Dr. Avery has built his narrative upon the foundations laid down by others, often, however, being forced to go or to send to the fountain head." It is stated elsewhere that the twenty-second chapter was originally written by James Mooney, of the Smithsonian Institute. That the material for the second chapter also came from that institution; and that the chapters on the Coronado Expedition and those on the Spanish Explorations, "besides the general critical readings they received were further examined by George Parker Winthrop, librarian of the John Carter Brown Library, Providence, R. I.; Frederick Webb Hodge, editor of the *American Anthropologist*, and Frank Heywood Hadden, of Lawrence, Kans., all specialists upon this subject. What we have, in short, at least in chapters specifically mentioned above—and they

are the best in the volume, chapters I and II amounting to a real contribution—is the results of the scholarship of others cast into the literary mould of Dr. Avery's style. Dumas the elder compared his relationship with his numerous collaborators to that of Napoleon with his marshals. Dumas, however, never raised his "marshals" from their humble condition of anonymity. Dr. Avery and his publishers have, in the cases above noted, been more generous. What with all this candor—somewhat scattered, it must be admitted—and the complaisance of the specialists whose services were invoked, the most captious critic is effectually estopped from raising any question as to the propriety of the system of history writing just described.

The volume before us is to be judged however not as a contribution to historical scholarship, but as a work designed "to meet the wants of men and women of general culture." From this standpoint it has, without doubt, certain excellencies. It is written in an interesting style. At few points could the publishers have improved upon their part in the work.

On the other hand, not a few adverse criticisms must be recorded. In the first place, while the style has a certain pleasing smoothness, the reluctance of the author to interrupt this compels him to fail, at crucial points, to state explicitly what he is talking about, and the result for the reader is perplexity. If it is sometimes fittingly eloquent, at other times the effect hardly befits the dignity of history written for "cultured men and women." "But the nascent West need not pale its glory before that of the dead or dying Orient" (page 65) is not eloquence to say the least. Again the effort to compress information by an allusion to what has not been told (pages 60-61) is always disastrous.

In his discussion of moot points, Dr. Avery shows an admirable desire to hold an even hand between contending theories. This virtue of impartiality has, however, its limits. For example, the point of greatest weakness in Varnhagen's defense of Vespucci is not exposed at all. Good nature, too, is not an unqualified virtue. Why should Marcou's generally derided theory of the origin of the word "America" be mentioned at all (page 240).

But the greatest defect of Dr. Avery's treatment of the "Period of Discovery" remains to be mentioned: *its lack of proportion*. The author claims to rest his work upon the best results of scholarship dealing with his subject. It is not demanded that he should have conceived the brilliant idea illustrated by Professor Cheyney in the idea of *beginning* the "History of the United States" with a discussion of the European conditions that led to the discovery of America. But it is certainly little less than provincial to devote ten pages (Chap. III) to fabled discoveries of America and twenty-three pages (Chap. IV) to the resultless discovery by the Norsemen, while disposing of the Eastern question and its bearing on the discovery of America in less than one page (108), and the work of Henry the navigator in two more (109-111).

Our verdict regarding Dr. Avery's bibliography must also be that it might be improved. We still judge from the standpoint of the "men and women of general culture" who are going to read this book. What are these helpless folk to do with a list of writings in which a silly magazine article demanding that

America be renamed in honor of Columbus hobnobs with Santarem's "Researches?" In certain cases Dr. Avery has pointed out the importance of an author's contribution to his subject. This idea should be utilized farther; and inferior works, if they are to be mentioned at all, should be noted in smaller type than more important works. Also, when the work on a subject is in French or German, it ought to be mentioned.

We are pleased to learn that the publishers have decided to omit imaginative pictures. We should recommend that Dr. Avery make a similar sacrifice of irrelevant poetical quotations. The cover, the prospectus explains, was designed along patriotic lines. It is unfortunate. For it mars an otherwise splendid piece of book making.

EDWARD S. CORWIN.

University of Pennsylvania.

The Cambridge Modern History. Planned by Lord Acton and edited by A. W. Ward, G. W. Prothero and Stanley Leathes. *The Wars of Religion*, Volume III. Pp. xxviii, 914. Price, \$4.00. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1905.

This volume of the Cambridge modern history covers approximately the years from 1555 to 1648. The first decade of the latter half of the sixteenth century is marked by a series of events that clearly indicate the tempestuous character of the century that follows. In 1555 occurred the abdication of Charles V; four years later, in 1559, the treaty of Cateau-Cambresis ended the long war between the two great Catholic powers, France and Spain. Italy was freed from her invaders, and Savoy gained her independence; England had lost Calais; Mary Tudor had just died, and parliament declared Elizabeth the supreme head of the Church of England and substituted the Book of Common Prayer for the Mass, while Mary Stuart proclaimed herself the lawful heir. More significant still was the change in the character of Protestantism into an aggressive, militant Calvinism, relying for its strength upon the people, and threatening not only the old faith but monarchical institutions themselves, in France, in Scotland, and to a less degree in the Netherlands. In the face of this new danger Catholic France and Spain drew very naturally together, while the church prepared for the conflict by a careful reformulation of its tenets in the third session of the Council of Trent, and by establishing the other instruments of the Catholic Reformation,—Society of Jesus and the Inquisition. Thus reformed, and with a new zeal it came to the aid of the political powers arrayed against the new Protestantism. The task before it "was the suppression of the threatened revolt in France, Scotland and the Netherlands and the dethronement of Elizabeth as a heretic and a usurper" (page 260).

The vicissitudes of fortune attendant upon this task constitute the subject-matter of the volume. Unfortunately the central theme has impressed itself upon only a few of the contributors and as a consequence we are confronted with a series of studies closely related to one another in subject but not in treatment. The editors might render an effective service by furnishing